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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

By CHARLES ST. JOHN CHUBB

This history of the Department of Architecture is the first of a series of histories of the various departments in the College of Engineering which will be published during the year in the OHIO STATE ENGINEER. Each department history will be written by the head of that particular department.

The ENGINEER presents this series with pleasure and in the belief that it will be of interest and value to students and faculty alike.

THE OHIO STATE ENGINEER, in presenting a series of brief historical sketches of each of the departments of the Engineering College, asks that Architecture, having at least the distinction of alphabetical leadership, introduce the series. The Department of Architecture is no longer an infant in the College, though it cannot yet claim the dignity of the venerable age attained by those departments organized back in the early seventies almost as early as the founding of the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College. Among the first teachers of mechanical drawing at the University, before a department of drawing was formally organized, were Stillman W. Robinson, for whom Robinson Laboratory is named, and Charles F. Marvin, now the distinguished Chief of the United States Weather Bureau.

Not until 1885 was drawing recognized as other than an adjunct to the work of other departments, but in that year a department of drawing was formally organized under the direction of Professor J. N. Bradford, still actively engaged in teaching and in point of service to the University the very dean of the entire University personnel. To Professor Bradford belongs the credit, then, of organizing the instruction in both mechanical and freehand drawing. In 1893 Hayes Hall was erected to house the Manual Training, Home Economics, and Drawing Departments. Painting, clay modeling, and photography were here added to the courses given by the Department of Drawing, and architectural drawing was introduced with the offering of a "Short Course in Architecture" in 1897. This curriculum was of three years' duration, but no degree was granted. Among the architects of Ohio, two who attained distinction—Frank L. Packard and Carl E. Howell, both deceased—received their early training here in Hayes Hall under Professor Bradford in this course offered by the Department of Architecture and Drawing.

In 1899 a four-year curriculum in architecture was established leading to that curious degree, C.E. in Arch., granted until 1912. The first graduate, John W. Peterson, received his degree in 1903. This was the first, last, and only degree granted when the department was in its cradle in Hayes Hall, for by that time the drawing department had again outgrown its quarters and moved the next year into the then newly completed Brown Hall. Shortly thereafter, in 1906, the work of the department was divided into a Department of Engineering Drawing under Pro-



fessor French, and a Department of Architecture continuing under Professor Bradford.

Among the graduates of this early period are three, who after extending their education at eastern universities, have returned to the department as teachers, namely, the writer, Professor Howard Dwight Smith, and Professor W. C. Ronan.

In 1912 the degree granted was changed to that of Bachelor of Architecture, but the course was perhaps overstressing the structural aspects of architecture at the expense of its fine-art aspect. It was obviously impossible to accomplish both in a four-year curriculum and, following the trend of architectural education, the curriculum was reorganized so as to provide courses in both architecture and in architectural engineering. The first degrees in this latter course were granted in 1918, and since that time the student group has been about equally divided between the two courses. To date there have been three hundred and thirty degrees granted as follows: C.E. in Arch., 24; B. Arch., 174; B. Arch. E., 130; Master of Architecture, 1; and Architectural Engineer, 1. It is interesting to note that fourteen of this number have been girls.

In 1911 Professor Bradford was appointed University Architect, and during the eighteen years following more than half of the buildings now on the campus were designed by him. The demands of this great building program of the University made it necessary for him to relinquish much of his teaching responsibility, and the writer was appointed chairman of the department in 1923. At no time, however, has Professor Bradford discontinued his valued teaching, and every graduate of the department has shared with him in the classroom his great store of architectural experience.

Another progressive step was taken by the department in 1930 when the time requirement of

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the curriculum in both Architecture and in Architectural Engineering was increased to five years. Ohio State is the first of the mid-western state universities to take this step. In so doing, the department is meeting the recommendations of the American Institute of Architects and of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, of which association the department has been a member school since 1923. The architectural schools of the United States are recognized by the Institute only through their membership in the Association, and such recognition is of importance in that graduation from these schools is accepted as evidence of professional competence by all states having registration laws regulating the practice of architecture.

The Institute grants annually in each of these schools the Student Medal of the American Institute of Architects to the graduating student having the highest scholastic record in Architecture. At Ohio State this honor has been conferred on Roy E. Vickers, '25; Franklin G. Scott, '26; Arthur T. Brown, '27; Jeanne B. Phillips, '28; Bernard F. Gayer, '29; Frank M. Van Auken, '30, and J. Walter Severinghaus, '31.

Two graduates are annually awarded the scholarship of the Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture. This provides a summer of competitive study at Lake Forest, Illinois. Here are assembled eight architects and eight landscape architects immediately following their graduation at Ohio State, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. The prize awarded to the successful competitors provides traveling scholarships in Europe for an architect and a landscape architect, and the Department of Architecture takes great pride in the record of its graduates in these competitions. In the six times that this coveted scholarship has been awarded, Ohio State has gone to Europe thrice, Illinois twice, and this year's award went to Michigan. The Ohio winners have been Franklin Scott in 1926, George Merkel in 1927, and Clifford McCoy in 1930. Other European scholarships offered by eastern universities have been won on three occasions by graduates in architecture from Ohio State, but the greatest scholastic honor that has been won by Ohio State graduates is the Fellowship in Architecture at

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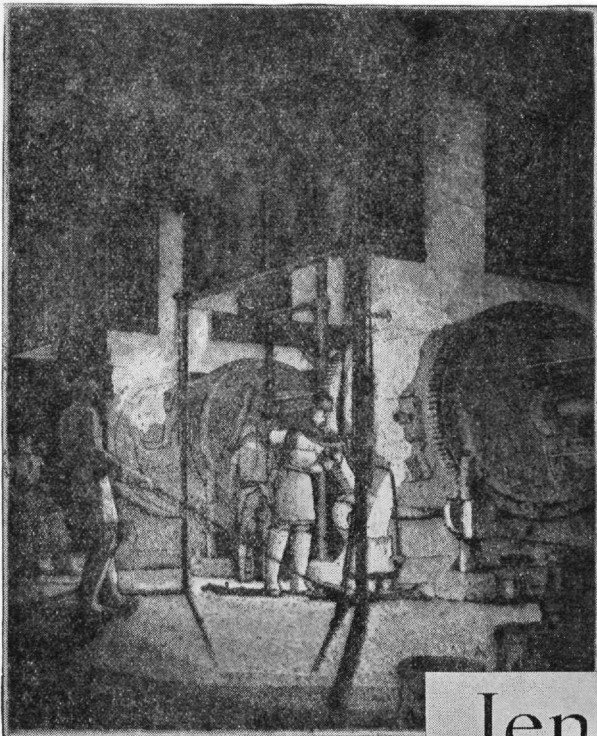
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the American Academy in Rome. This provides three years of study at the Academy in Rome and the fellowship has been won by Arthur Dean, '21, in 1923 and again by Clarence Badgeley, '23, in 1925. In the final analysis the best measure of the accomplishment of a school is the record of its graduates made in practice. The average age of these graduates is still quite young—somewhere in the early thirties but their accomplishment is making itself felt. The evidence of this fact the department hopes to present during the year in an exhibition of the professional work of its graduates.

Among the teachers in the department not hitherto mentioned are Professor Herbert Baumer, a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, who has charge of the instruction in architectural design and who joined the staff in 1922. The following year Asst. Professor Galen F. Oman, '20, following graduation at Columbia, returned to his alma mater to teach; and in 1924 Asst. Professor Richard S. Buck, who received his training at Rensselaer and Columbia, was called to take charge of the courses in Architectural Engineering. In 1929 Professor Howard Dwight Smith, '07, again returned to his teaching and to become University Architect after an absence of eight years spent as the architect of the Board of Education in Columbus.

The present depression, particularly marked in the building field, together with the extension of the duration of the courses to five years, have resulted in a reduction in the student enrollment in the department. This is, save the year of the war, the only time that the department has receded in numbers. It comes as a relief to the overcrowding in the drafting rooms, and the faculty is pleased to note a better scholastic quality in those entering and predicts for the future even greater progress in architectural education at Ohio State.
